REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-60 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 7, 16, 23, 30, 39, 46, 53 and 60 have been objected to for including redundant language.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-15, 17-22, 24-29, 31-32, 35-38, 40-45, 47-52 and 54-59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bloomquist et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,295,133 ("Bloomquist") in view of Gass et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,822,503 ("Gass").

Claims 7, 16, 23, 30, 39, 46, 53 and 60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bloomquist in view of Gass and Hains et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,262,811 ("Hains").

Claims 10-11 and 33-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bloomquist in view of Gass and Ng et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,131,096 ("Ng").

Summary Of The Reply

Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 7-14, 16-19, 23-26, 30-37 and 39, and has cancelled claims 4-6, 15, 20-22, 27-29, 38 and 40-60 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not describe or suggest the claimed invention.

Reply to Claim Objections

Applicant has deleted the redundant language in claims 7, 16, 23, 30 and 39, and has cancelled claims 46, 53 and 60 without prejudice. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections be withdrawn.

Reply to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 17 and 24 recite apparatus and methods that: (1) include a database that has an image associated with a spot color pattern name, (2) receive a print job including the spot color pattern name, (3) add page description

language (PDL) code to the print job for painting the image in the print job, (4) execute the PDL code in the print job, (5) extract the image from the database, and (6) paint the image in the print job. Independent claims 8 and 31 recite apparatus and methods that: (1) include a Raster Image Processor (RIP) that has a database that has a first image associated with a first spot color pattern name, the first image adapted to simulate specialized print media, (2) receive a request from an application program for access to the first image, and (3) send the requested first image from the RIP to the application program. None of the cited references, alone or combined, describe or suggest the claimed invention.

Bloomquist describes a prepress system 32 that includes one or more front end computers 40 connected to a computer network 35. (Col. 6, lines 64-66). The front end computers 40 can output images coded in a PDL to one or more raster image processors (RIPs) 34, which interpret the PDL code and convert the graphic information described therein to raster data. (Col. 7, lines 19-23; Col. 1, lines 52-55). RIPs 34 provide the raster data to print drives 41, which may store the received data, or may immediately send the data to output devices 46. (Col. 7, line 67 through Col. 8, lines 11). Output devices 46 may be used to create plates 58, each of which may be used on press 56 to print one color separation of an image. (Col. 8, lines 12-15). A color image may use cyan, yellow, magenta and black colors, and also may use one or more "spot colors," which refer to additional colors. (Col. 8, lines 16-20).

Further, each print drive 41 may be used to manipulate raster data received from RIPs 34. (Col. 11, lines 35-39; Col. 11, line 66 through Col. 12, line 2). In particular, print drive 41 may combine color separations from one or more images to mask out part of an image. (Col. 11, lines 39-49). For example, an original image to be modified is processed by RIP 34 to form first raster data 170, which are sent and stored on print drive 41. (Col. 13, lines 34-47). A modification image is also processed by RIP 34 to form second raster data 176, which are sent and stored on print drive 41. (Col. 13, line 48 through Col. 14, line 20) . The modification image contains a modification to the original image and also contains a mask layer, which may be a spot color layer. (Col. 13, lines 56-60). Print drive 41 merges first raster data 172 and second raster data 176 to generate modified raster data 178. (Col. 14, lines 20-23).

Thus, although Bloomquist refers to "spot colors," the reference does not describe or suggest anything relevant to the claimed invention. In particular, Bloomquist does not describe or suggest anything regarding apparatus or methods that (1) include a database that has an image associated with a spot color pattern name, (2) receive a print job including the spot color pattern name, (3) add PDL code to the print job for painting the image in the print job, (4) extract the image from the database and (5) paint the image in the print job. Further, Bloomquist does not describe or suggest anything regarding apparatus or methods that (1) include a RIP that has a database that includes a first image associated with a first spot color pattern name, the first image adapted to simulate specialized print media, (2) receive a request from an application program for access to the first image, and (3) send the requested first image from the RIP to the application program.

Gass also does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Instead, Gass describes a method for modifying one or more colors contained in an encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file using a computer program, such as a desktop publishing program. (Col. 3, lines 52-54). In particular, desktop publishing program 50 imports vector graphics import data contained in a color EPS file. (Col. 5, lines 61-65). Identifiable colors in the color EPS file are added to a color palette 84 in the desktop publishing program. (Col. 5, line 65 through Col. 6, line 4). Color palette 84 lists colors in the publication that were either created using the desktop publishing program, or were imported from an EPS file, and may include process colors and spot colors. (Col. 5, line 67 through Col. 6, line 12).

In particular, color palette 84 is displayed in a list that includes a rectangular-shaped color swatch 157 that displays the color associated with the color name, and may also include an identifying icon 90 adjacent to the color swatch 157. (Col. 9, lines 13-27; FIG. 4). A user may modify colors in color palette 84 by using dialog box 182. (Col. 9, lines 45-61). After the colors are modified, PostScript code is generated that incorporates the modifications, and EPS code from any EPS files incorporated in the publication are added to the generated PostScript code. (Col. 10, line 42 through Col. 11, line 25). The combined code subsequently may be interpreted by an interpreter in a printer or an imagesetter. (Col. 10, lines 45-48; Col. 11, lines 23-25; Col. 11, lines 45-47).

Thus, although Gass refers to spot colors, the reference does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, Gass does not describe or suggest anything regarding apparatus or methods that (1) include a database that has an image associated with a spot color pattern name, (2) receive a print job including the spot color pattern name, (3) add page description language (PDL) code to the print job for painting the image in the print job, (4) execute the PDL code in the print job, (5) extract the image from a database, and (6) paint the image in the print job. Further, Gass does not describe or suggest anything regarding apparatus or methods that (1) include a RIP that has a database that includes a first image associated with a first spot color pattern name, the first image adapted to simulate specialized print media, (2) receive a request from an application program for access to the first image, and (3) send the requested first image from the RIP to the application program. Indeed, Gass does not describe or suggest anything regarding a RIP.

Further, there is no logical reason why anyone would be motivated to combine Bloomquist and Gass. Bloomquist pertains to methods and apparatus for manipulating raster data received from a RIP, whereas Gass pertains to methods for modifying colors contained in an EPS file (pre-RIP). Even if there were some reason to combine Bloomquist and Gass, the combination would not produce the claimed invention. Seemingly, the combination of Bloomquist and Gass would result in a method for modifying colors in an EPS file, and for manipulating raster data received from a RIP. That resulting process, however is not the claimed invention.

Because neither of the cited references, alone or combined, describe or suggest the claimed invention, applicants respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejections of independent claims 1, 8, 17, 24 and 31 be withdrawn. Because all other claims depend from one of these independent claims, applicant further respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejections of claims 2-3, 7, 9-14, 16, 18-19, 23, 25-26, 30, 32-37 and 39 also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicant submits that this application, including claims 1-3, 7-14, 16-19, 23-26, 30-37 and 39, is allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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